

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC, YO, RO, HU, BU, PL

SUBJECT: GRANT-IN-AID PROPOSAL: SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL MISSION

1. IN ORDER TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL FOR SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN U.S. COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITIES IN POLAND, YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA, BULGARIA AND HUNGARY, SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) PROPOSES SENDING ITS PRESIDENT,
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LOUIS WOZAR OF DAYTON, OHIO AND ITS CHIEF EXECUTIVE

OFFICER, THOMAS GITTINS OF WASHINGTON, D.C. ON A MISSION TO THOSE COUNTRIES IN LATE APRIL - EARLY MAY. EXACT DATES AND ITINERARY ARE NOW BEING DEVELOPED AND DETAILS WILL FOLLOW. CU/EE IS CONSIDERING GRANT SUPPORT FOR THIS PRIVATE MISSION. PROPOSED ITINERARY INCLUDES STOPS IN:

YUGOSLAVIA: ZAGREB, BELGRADE
BULGARIA: SOFIA, PLOVDIV
ROMANIA: BUCHAREST, CONSTANZA
HUNGARY: BUDAPEST
POLAND: WARSAW, (ANOTHER CITY YET TO BE DETERMINED)

MESSERS WOZAR AND GITTINS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED SIMILAR PRIVATE MISSIONS WITH CU FUNDING TO U.S.S.R. IN JULY 1973 AND TO MIDDLE EAST IN APRIL-MAY 1975.

2. BASIC OBJECTIVES OF MISSION ARE: (1) DISCUSS WITH LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL OFFICIALS IN THE FIVE COUNTRIES POTENTIAL FOR SISTER CITY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT WITH U.S.; (2) DETERMINE IN EACH COUNTRY MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH SUCH PROGRAMS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED; (3) DISCUSS EXPECTATIONS OFFICIALS IN EACH COUNTRY WOULD HAVE OF SUCH PROGRAMS; (4) ESTABLISH CONTACTS FOR FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS; (5) DISCUSS PROGRAM WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN EACH COUNTRY; AND (6) RELATE TO OFFICIALS IN EACH COUNTRY OBJECTIVES OF U.S. SISTER CITY PROGRAM AND HOW IT FUNCTIONS.

3. SCI NOW REPRESENTS 570 U.S. COMMUNITIES AFFILIATED WITH 720 "SISTER CITIES" IN 76 OTHER COUNTRIES. SCI STATES THAT SISTER CITY PROGRAM IS, "COMMITTED TO PROCESS OF PROVIDING PRIVATE CITIZENS, THROUGH THEIR COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS, WITH ACTIVE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT LOCAL LEVEL. SCI WORKS TO ASSIST U.S. COMMUNITIES IN CARRYING OUT EXCHANGE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR SISTER CITIES. EXCHANGE PROGRAMS EMPHASIZED ARE: EDUCATIONAL (STUDENTS AND TEACHER EXCHANGE); CULTURAL (ART, PERFORMING GROUPS, SPORTS GROUPS, ETC.); YOUTH EXCHANGES, MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL (TRANSPORTATION, PORT DEVELOPMENT, MUNICIPAL SERVICES, PLANNERS, VOCATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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AND HEALTH PROGRAMS, ETC.); PRIVATE PROFESSIONAL (JOURNALISTS, BUSINESS PEOPLE, DOCTORS, DENTISTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.). A PACKET OF INFORMATION ABOUT SCI IS BEING POUCHED SEPARATELY.

4. FOR HUNGARY THIS IS EXPLORATORY MISSION AS THERE NOW EXIST NO SUCH RELATIONS. FOR POLAND, YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA AND BULGARIA MISSION DIRECTED MORE TOWARD GAINING VIEW

OF PROGRAM AND MECHANISM FOR AFFILIATING, AS IN EACH COUNTRY THERE NOW IS SISTER CITY ACTIVITY WITH U.S.

5. THIS IS A PRIVATE MISSION, HOWEVER, POSTS WOULD BE REQUESTED PROVIDE FACILITATIVE SERVICES INsofar AS FEASIBLE FOR MR. WOZAR AND MR. GITTINS. SPECIFICALLY, THEY WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE IN HELPING TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS AND ARRANGE FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. ALSO, THEY REQUEST POSTS ARRANGE FOR INTERPRETERS WHERE NECESSARY. MR. WOZAR AND MR. GITTINS ARE PLANNING TO HAVE THEIR WIVES ACCOMPANY THEM ON THIS MISSION AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, AND WILL ARRANGE LOCAL TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS THEMSELVES.

6. MR. WOZAR AND MR. GITTINS ARE RECEPTIVE TO ANY SUGGESTIONS FROM POSTS AS TO OFFICIALS OR CITIZENS WITH WHOM THEY SHOULD MEET. THEY WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON CHIEF OF MISSION, CAO AND OTHER INTERESTED EMBASSY OFFICERS SOON AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL, AND THEN MEET WITH KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS.

BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE, MR. WOZAR AND MR. GITTINS PLAN TO CALL ON AMBASSADORS OF EACH COUNTRY IN WASHINGTON. THEY HAVE ALREADY HAD POSITIVE CONTACT WITH CULTURAL OFFICERS IN ALL CASES.

7. SCI HAS REQUESTED GRANT-IN-AID FROM CU/EE FOR ROUND-TRIP AIR FARE, GROUND TRANSPORTATION AND PER DIEM FOR TWO PERSONS WITH TOTAL COST OF DOLS 4,280. AMOUNT CHARGEABLE TO EACH COUNTRY'S CU ALLOCATION WOULD BE ABOUT DOLS 850.

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8. ACTION REQUESTED: CU/EE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL AND REQUESTS POSTS' REACTIONS/COMMENTS BY CABLE NLT JANUARY 23. FYI. IF POSTS CONCUR, CU/EE WOULD FUND ONLY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL VISIT, AND NOT RPT NOT FOR INDIVIDUAL SISTER CITY PROGRAMS. END FYI KISSINGER

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